

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12 and 14-15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 3, 8 and 13 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 2~~ A computer program product for implementing an electronic commerce system supporting on-line stores accessible by a set of buyers, each buyer having a buyer representation in the electronic commerce system, each buyer representation being associated with one of a set of one or more organizations, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium, and comprising:

computer readable program code means for defining and maintaining a set of customer trading agreement data items, each comprising terms and conditions associated with one of the set of buyer representations and one or more of the on-line stores;

computer readable program code means for defining and maintaining a set of base trading agreement data items comprising terms and conditions, each of the base trading agreement data items being available for reference by one or more of the customer trading agreement data items or one or more of others of the set of base trading agreement data items;

computer readable program code means for defining and maintaining a set of store settings trading agreement data items, each store settings trading agreement data item being associated with one of the on-line stores;

computer readable program code means for defining and maintaining a set of organization-specific trading agreement data items, each organization-specific trading agreement data item being associated with one of the set of organizations; and

computer readable program code means for implementing an application interface for returning a set of governing terms and conditions for a buyer-store electronic commerce session,

based on the referenced customer, base, store settings and organization-specific trading agreement data items;

in which the application interface for returning a set of governing terms and conditions determines the set of governing conditions for the buyer-store electronic commerce session by taking the union set of the terms and conditions specified in the following trading agreements, where such agreements are defined to comprise:

a. the customer trading agreement data item for the buyer-store electronic commerce session,

b. any base trading agreement data items referenced by the customer trading agreement data item and by other referenced base trading agreements,

c. any store settings trading agreement data items for the store of the buyer-store electronic commerce session, and

d. any organization-specific trading agreement data items for the ancestor organizations to the buyer representation in the buyer-store electronic commerce session;

in which the application interface for returning a set of governing terms and conditions determines the set of governing terms and conditions for the buyer-store electronic commerce session by applying a set of conflict rules to the set of the terms and conditions in the union set of the said trading agreements.

Claims 4-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 7~~ An electronic commerce system supporting on-line stores accessible by a set of buyers, each buyer having a buyer representation in the electronic commerce system, each buyer representation being associated with one of a set of one or more organizations, the system comprising:

means for defining and maintaining a set of customer trading agreement data items, each comprising terms and conditions associated with one of the set of buyer representations and one or more of the on-line stores;

means for defining and maintaining a set of base trading agreement data items comprising terms and conditions, each of the base trading agreement data items being available

for reference by one or more of the customer trading agreement data items or one or more of others of the set of base trading agreement data items;

means for defining and maintaining a set of store settings trading agreement data items, each store settings trading agreement data item being associated with one of the on-line stores;

means for defining and maintaining a set of organization-specific trading agreement data items, each organization-specific trading agreement data item being associated with one of the set of organizations; and

an application interface for returning a set of governing terms and conditions for a buyer-store electronic commerce session, based on the referenced customer, base, store settings and organization-specific trading agreement data items;

in which the application interface for returning a set of governing terms and conditions determines the set of governing conditions for the buyer-store electronic commerce session by taking the union set of the terms and conditions specified in the following trading agreements, where such agreements are defined to comprise:

the customer trading agreement data item for the buyer-store electronic commerce session;

any base trading agreement data items referenced by the customer trading agreement data item and by other referenced base trading agreements;

any store settings trading agreement data items for the store of the buyer-store electronic commerce session; and

any organization-specific trading agreement data items for the ancestor organizations to the buyer representation in the buyer-store electronic commerce session;

in which the application interface for returning a set of governing terms and conditions determines the set of governing terms and conditions for the buyer-store electronic commerce session by applying a set of conflict rules to the set of the terms and conditions in the union set of the said trading agreements.

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 12~~ A computer-implemented method for defining governing terms and conditions for a transaction in an electronic commerce system, the

system supporting on-line stores accessible by a set of buyers, each buyer having a buyer representation in the electronic commerce system, each buyer representation being associated with one of a set of one or more organizations, the method comprising the steps of:

defining and maintaining a set of customer trading agreement data items, each comprising terms and conditions associated with one of the set of buyer representations and one or more of the on-line stores;

defining and maintaining a set of base trading agreement data items comprising terms and conditions, each of the base trading agreement data items being available for reference by one or more of the customer trading agreement data items or one or more of others of the set of base trading agreement data items;

defining and maintaining a set of store settings trading agreement data items, each store settings trading agreement data item being associated with one of the on-line stores;

defining and maintaining a set of organization-specific trading agreement data items, each organization-specific trading agreement data item being associated with one of the set of organizations; and

determining the governing terms and conditions for the buyer-store electronic commerce session for the said transaction, based on any referenced customer, base, store settings and organization-specific trading agreement data items;

in which the step of determining the governing terms and conditions comprises the step of taking the union set of the terms and conditions specified in the trading agreements defined to comprise:

the customer trading agreement data item for the buyer-store electronic commerce session;

any base trading agreement data items referenced by the customer trading agreement data item and by other referenced base trading agreements;

any store settings trading agreement data items for the store of the buyer-store electronic commerce session; and

any organization-specific trading agreement data items for the ancestor organizations to the buyer representation in the buyer-store electronic commerce session;

in which the step of returning a set of governing terms and conditions further comprises the step of applying a set of conflict rules to the set of the terms and conditions in the union set of the said trading agreements.

Claims 14-15 (cancelled)